

Wasatch considers park planning

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HEBER CITY — A proposal prepared by the Wasatch County auditor, to show the possible effects of the potential cuts on county services, allowed for no maintenance on county park and recreation facilities.

The County's Parks and Recreation Board has protested this action; on the grounds that recreation is an important deterrent to juvenile delinquency, and because these facilities are used for events that bring revenue into the county.

County Commissioner Pete Coleman, chairman of the board, pointed out that such events as rodeos, horse shows and powwows not only contribute to maintenance funds, they bring visitors to the county who spend money at local businesses.

According to people who work with troubled teen-agers,

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young people turn to alcohol and drugs mainly because they have not learned to fill their leisure time with sports, hobbies and other constructive activities.

Randy Godfrey, a school teacher, added that children also need a lot of alternatives to choose from. Rodney Wade said the money saved by cutting the recreation budget would have to be added to juvenile court costs because kids have to have outlets and cited the problems in Los Angeles as an example of what can happen when young people don't have acceptable outlets.

Marty Van Roosendall, superintendent of Wasatch State Park, warned the board that it needed to plan now for recrea-

tion facilities that will be needed as the county population increases. He said many communities are now having to pay high prices to buy developed properties for parks, because they didn't plan for them in advance.

Kevin Destefano volunteered to prepare a map identifying property in the county that is owned by the county and other public entities, so the board can identify parcels that might be suitable for parks. The board also discussed the possibility of working with the zoning commission to require de-

velopers to provide space for parks in their developments.

Coleman requested each member to prepare a list of long and short-term goals for the board to discuss and compile into a workable plan. He said that during the last legislative session, provisions were made for parks and recreation to establish their own tax rates. Kent Berg, public works director, said voters in Sandy City and South Salt Lake have approved the creation of special service districts for parks and recreation so they can be funded by mill levies.